

GUIDE TO THE SG4 ARAUCANIANS FILE

[The SG4 Araucanians file is concerned with a number of tribes speaking languages of the Araucanian stock, but concentrates on the Mapuche, who live in Central Chile. Except for the Pehuenche of the Andean highlands, all of the tribes subsist primarily by agriculture, with fishing and shellfishing having been important on the coast and gathered pison seeds and other wild products having been staples in the interior. While the file has considerable time depth, the earliest data coming from the sixteenth century, the principal sources are concerned with the Araucanians of the twentieth century who generally live on reservations established by the Chilean government.

There are twelve sources in the Araucanians file, all of which are in English. The principal sources are: 1: Titiev, which is a general study of acculturation; 10: Hilger, which is a study of childhood and child-rearing practices; 11: Faron, which is a study of Mapuche social structure; and 12: Faron, which is a study of Mapuche religion and morals. 5: Cooper is a good introductory article which supplements the major sources, particularly in regard to diversity among the various tribal divisions. 4: Latham is an account of Araucanian culture in the nineteenth century which, although poorly organized, contains many useful details of Araucanian life. The other sources are shorter articles which contain data supplementary to the above.

This is a generally well-rounded file, especially strong in the areas of acculturation, social structure, religion and acculturation, and well-suited for cross-cultural research. However, the problem of time-depth should be kept in mind, although much of the data pertains to the twentieth-century Araucanians. In addition, the problem of subcultural variation among the various tribal components should be considered. Special marking decisions for the file include the following: residential kin groups - 618; ñillatun - 793; machi (female shamans) - 766; kalku (human witches or sorcerers) - 754; ñillatun (religious ceremonial complex involving ancestor worship) - 769/796; and kamani (officials at the ñillatun ceremony who keep order) - 796/825. The file was processed between 1957 and 1970.]